

REMARKS:

Claims 1-20 were rejected in the last office action over Hanshaw, Hanshaw in view of McDermot, and/or Hanshaw in view of Beffa. The claims have been amended as claims 21-25 herein. Consideration and entry of the above-referenced new claims are respectfully requested.

Specifically, the new claims have been written to more particularly describe that the racquet pick comprises a friction grip thereon; and that the clip comprises an aperture thereon which functions to allow the racquet pick to be removably affixed to a key ring or string. In addition, there is now an independent claim describing the preferred method of usage of the present invention, which teaches a different form of usage than the relevant devices of the prior art.

Regarding the reference to Hanshaw, the claims and specification do not teach the “generally annular flared portion” or any equivalent thereof, as claimed in the present invention. This is an important feature given the purpose of the present invention, which is fundamentally different from that of Hanshaw.

Hanshaw’s principal features are containment of items in a cavity, such as pills or replacement pen cartridges. The claims of the present invention, which relate to similar features, have been canceled. Although remaining features of Hanshaw are somewhat structurally similar to the present invention (most notably the conical tip), this is only to create a pen shape and not for the purposes of the present invention.

Regarding the other references, the claims relating to the hinged means, such as that disclosed in Beffa, have been canceled. Moreover, McDermott is in a completely different industry than the present invention (flashlights) and an aperture such as that disclosed in McDermott would not have been an obvious design choice for one developing a racquet pick.

Finally, the primary reference, Hanshaw, contains no motivation to combine the relevant elements of McDermott. Thus, the totality of prior art references only make features of the present invention obvious in hindsight.

Based on the foregoing, allowance of the combination of features now claimed in the present application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner consider necessary any additional formal changes anywhere in the application, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment. Alternatively, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in such an instance.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Steve Marangoni DATED: 6-12-04
Steve Marangoni